

December 12, 2006

Ex Parte

Ms. Marilyn Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992, MB Docket No. 05-311

Dear Ms. Dortch,

This notice is to record our ex parte meeting with FCC Commissioners Michael Copps & Jonathan Adelstein. We stated our concerns directly via a town hall meeting on October 19th 2006 at Hunter college in New York City. Our comments are summarized as follows:

We unite with Alliance for Community Media members in calling for competition without destruction of local, community-controlled media.

1) The proposed rule eliminates incentive for providers to negotiate in good faith. If the city and the provider do not come to agreement within 90 days, the provider can proceed without an agreement. They can then make billions of dollars using our public land without considering local needs. This framework would be unreasonable.

2) The proposed rule lacks a remedy for geographic discrimination. Public, Education and Government Access, or PEG, are tools to engage our local communities in democracy. Democratic participation should be for all, not based on a company business rule. All in our community own the public-right-of-way, not just those in an area lucky enough to be served. We believe that the FCC must anticipate inevitable market imbalances, as Congress did, and that any rule making must provide these three elements:

A) A standard for identifying imbalances in service.

B) A party responsible for identifying the imbalance—logically, the municipality.

C) A means for prevention or remedy of the imbalance.

3) The proposed rule reduces the support for PEG or other community media services from what is allowed by current Federal law. We believe this is an arbitrary reduction that will hurt our communities. It is in direct contradiction to

language authored by telephone companies and already passed in key states such as California and Texas. This reduction would eliminate a valued community resource with no demonstrated effect on either subscriber price or level of competition.

4) The changes being proposed to the law are dramatic. We believe that Congress, not the FCC, should make such changes to the law. These changes will slow competition by confusing the legal framework. Lawmakers, not the courts, should decide such changes. The FCC should not usurp Congressional authority.

We look forward to working with the FCC to establish a process that supports both competition and community fairness. Please contact us if you have questions or comments.

Sincerely,

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